Sale of MiG-29 to India

259. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the MInister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia, during Prime Minister's visit to that country in May, 2005, offered the sale of MiG-29 to India and also to assist India in the manufacture of that aircraft in India;

(b) if so, the details of the two offers; and

(c) by when the manufacture of MiG-29 in India would commence and by when India's dependence on Russia for its manufacture would end?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Patriot Missile

†260. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether America have committed to India to provide Patriot Advance Capability 3 Anti Missile Defence System for self defence and if so, how it will affect the defence preparedness by India;

(b) whether America have decided to provide F-16 Fighter Aircraft to India and whether India have accepted the said offer and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a new era has began as a result of Indo-American defence procurement agreements and how much improvement has taken place in our country's military power thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) During Raksha Mantri, Shri Pranab Mukherjee's recent visit to the United States of America the US Department of Defence made a verbal offer to provide a technical briefing on the Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC)-3 anti-missle defence system to India. This is not a formal offer to sell the system. No date has been fixed for the briefing as yet. Its utility for India's defence preparedeness has still to be assessed.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As regards F-16 aircraft, the US has cleared the US manufacturers of F-16 and F-18 aircraft to respond to an Indian request for Proposal (RFP) for the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft for the Indian Air Force when it is issued. The process is still at an early stage. The RFP has not yet been issued by the Ministry of Defence. Responses to the RFP will be assessed on the merits of each offer.

Defence acquisition from the US at present are still modest and confined to a few systems. The US has however signaled its readiness to liberalise the defence trade relationship subject to its legislative and security requirements. This relationship has still to be developed. As a source of the most advanced defence technologies, enhanced levels of high technology defence procurement from the US could contribute to our defence modernization and preparedness.

Basic principles of the framework agreement signed with the US Government

261. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basic principles of the framework agreement which the Defence Minister has signed with U.S.A. Government;

(b) what will be the implication of this agreement on India's defence and foreign policies; and

(c) would this imply Indian Armed Forces participating in any military action initiation by U.S.A. against international terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A document entitled 'New Framework for the US-India Defence Relationship' was signed on June 28, 2005 during Raksha Mantri's official visit to the US from June 27-30, 2005. The 'Framework' updates the 'Agreed Minutes on Defence Relations Between India and the United States' signed in January 1995 and seeks to advance common security interests such as maintaining security and stability; defeating terrorism and violent religious extremism; preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials, data and technologies; and protecting the free flow of commerce. It includes provisions for cooperation to enhance the capabilities of the US and Indian armed forces to deal with terrorism, disasters and the spread of